ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES



Title 41 State Government

Chapter 4.1 History, Archaeology And State Emblems

Article 3 Historical Names

§§ 41-835 – 41-838 Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names

Termination Under Sunset Law

The state board on geographic and historic names shall terminate on July 1, 2011, unless continued. See §§ 41-3010.05 and 41-2955.

Title 41, Chapter 4.1, Article 3, relating to historical names, is repealed on January 1, 2011 by § 41-3010.05

§ 41-835. Perpetuation of historical names

It is declared the public policy of the state that natural or artificial objects, places or things continue to be known by the names they now bear, as determined by the state geographic and historic names board, so that the historical record of the state may be protected and preserved.

§ 41-835.01. Definition of board

In this article, unless the context otherwise requires, "board" means the state board on geographic and historic names.

§ 41-835.02. State board on geographic and historic names; membership; expenses; quorum; staff support; chairman

- A. A state board on geographic and historic names is established consisting of:
 - 1. One member appointed by the head of each of the following agencies or organizations:
 - (a) The department of transportation.
 - (b) The state land department.
 - (c) The Arizona state library, archives and public records.
 - (d) The Arizona historical society.
 - (e) The department of commerce.
 - (f) The department of economic security.
 - (g) A geography department of an Arizona university.
 - 2. Two members of the public appointed by the governor.
- B. Members shall serve staggered five year terms to begin and end on the third Monday in January, except that the member appointed pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1, subdivision (g) shall serve a two year term. The initial appointment of the member appointed

in subsection A, paragraph 1, subdivision (g) shall be made by Arizona state university. On the expiration of the initial term of the member appointed in subsection A, paragraph 1, subdivision (g) the position shall be appointed by the university of Arizona, and on the expiration of that term northern Arizona university shall appoint the member. The three state universities shall continue to rotate the appointment of this member on the board.

- C. Members are not eligible to receive compensation but are eligible for reimbursement of expenses pursuant to title 38, chapter 4, article 2.
- D. The Arizona state library, archives and public records shall provide staff support to the board.
- E. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.
- F. The board shall annually elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its members.

§ 41-835.03. Powers and duties

A. The board shall:

- Receive and evaluate all proposals for changes in or additions to names of geographic features and places of historical significance in this state and after this evaluation designate the most appropriate and acceptable names and spelling of these names for use in maps and other official governmental documents.
- 2. Receive and evaluate all proposals for naming geographic features in this state for which no generally accepted name is or has been in use and after this evaluation designate a name for use in maps and other official governmental documents.
- 3. Cooperate with political subdivisions of this state to eliminate the duplication of the names of geographic features that are not of historical significance.
- 4. Assist and cooperate with the United States board of geographic names in matters relating to names of geographic features and places in this state.
- 5. Maintain a list of advisers who have expertise in this state's history, geography or culture and consult with those advisers in evaluating proposals.
- 6. Designate one or more members to act as the state representative to the western states geographic names council.

B. The board may:

- 1. Adopt rules for the orderly conduct of business.
- 2. Initiate proposals for changes in or additions to geographic or historic names in this state. Any proposal initiated by the board shall be evaluated in accordance with the procedures prescribed under section 41-835.04.
- C. Notwithstanding any other law, the board shall not change street and road names for the purpose of uniformity and it shall not name scenic or historical highways.

§ 41-835.04. Changes in or additions of geographic or historic names; submission of proposal; consideration; action; notice

- A. A person, a group or an agency of federal, state or local government may propose a change in or the addition of any geographic or historic name within this state by submitting it and supporting information to the board for evaluation and recommendation.
- B. On receipt of a proposal, together with sufficient supporting information, the board shall:
 - 1. Place the proposal on the agenda for consideration at its next meeting.
 - 2. Give appropriate notice to persons and groups that are affected by the proposal or might have an interest in it.
 - 3. Provide opportunities for public comment.
 - 4. Conduct research and field investigations as it deems necessary.
- C. When the board takes action on a proposal, it shall notify the person, group or agency that submitted the proposal and shall transmit the official recommendation of geographic names to the United States board of geographic names. The names approved by the board shall be filed with the secretary of state and the clerk of the board of supervisors in the appropriate county.

§ 41-835.05. Use of names chosen

When the board designates a name for a geographic feature within this state, the name is the official name for the geographic feature or historic place and shall be used in and on all maps, records, documents and other publications issued by this state or its departments and political subdivisions.

§ 41-835.06. Advertising or publishing a name without approval

No person may attempt to modify local usage or name an unnamed geographic feature in an advertisement or publication without first obtaining the approval of the board. If a person violates this section, the board shall promptly act to curtail such activity and shall adopt an official name for the feature if no recognized name is of record.

§ 41-836. Restriction on changing historical name

It is unlawful for a public officer, department, agency or employee to change and record in writing or otherwise in any public records, documents or papers of this state the name of a mountain, canyon, gulch, stream, streambed or channel whether flowing or dry, mesa, desert, forest, spring, water hole, bridge either natural or artificial, cliff, chasm, dam, lake either natural or artificial, park, mining district, monument either natural or artificial, road, trail or other natural or artificial geographic feature in this state unless the change has first been approved by the board.

§ 41-837. Hoover dam

- A. Notwithstanding the provisions of this article, the dam located on the Colorado river in Mohave county, formerly known as Boulder dam, is designated and shall be known as "Hoover dam".
- B. All official acts, state records, documents and papers relating thereto executed after June 30, 1953 shall bear the designation "Hoover dam".

§ 41-837.01. Mogollon Rim

A. Notwithstanding this article, the cliff-like escarpment located in northern Arizona which separates the Colorado plateau and the central highlands and forms, in part, the divide between the little Colorado river and Salt river drainage areas, also forming a portion of the boundaries of Coconino and Gila counties, is designated and shall be known as the "Mogollon Rim". The escarpment begins at approximately 34 o 25' 10" north 111 o 33' 00" west and continues through approximately 34 o 18' 00" north 110 o 54' 15" west then continues through approximately 34 o 14' 00" north 110 o 18' 9" west and ends at approximately 34 o 7' 15" north 109 o 58' 30" west, such point being approximately two miles south of Pinetop-Lakeside at the head of Petrified creek.

- B. All official acts, state records, documents and papers relating to the escarpment described in subsection A after April 4, 1984 shall bear the designation "Mogollon Rim".
- C. The first letter of both words of the designation "Mogollon Rim" shall be capitalized in accordance with standard practice for geographic names.

§ 41-838. Violation; classification

A person who violates any provisions of this article, or who directs a violation of this article, is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor.